

REMARKS

Under the Office Action, claims 1,2,4-7,9 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zernov, et al. (US 6,097,424) in view of Cairni, et al. (US 4,777,501). Claims 3, 8, and 10-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Furthermore, during discussions with the Examiner regarding the subject Action, the Examiner indicated that both broad independent claims (i.e. claims 1 and 15) would be considered allowable if they included the limitations of claim 3 (i.e. an "IR range of about 700 to about 1400 nm").

By way of this amendment, the claims have been amended to be written in a form indicated as allowable according to the subject Action and Examiner's comments. In particular, independent Claims 1 and 15 were rewritten to include the limitations of claim 3. Claim 8 was rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original claims 6 and 1. Claims 10 and 11 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 9.

Claims 3 and 4 were canceled. The remaining claims are dependent upon and include all of the limitations of either rewritten claims 1 or 15.

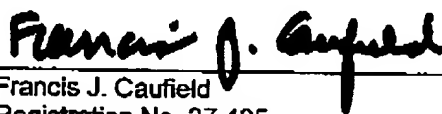
Should an extension of time be required in connection with this response, please consider this a request for a one-month extension and charge my Deposit Account No. 03-1150 therefor.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

April 26, 2005

Date


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